

REMARKS

Claims 5-10, 18-21, 23-32, 36-42 are all the claims pending in the application. This Amendment amends claims 5, 6, 7, 10, 18, 20, 24, 26, 27, 37, 39, adds claims 40-42, cancels claims 33-35, and addresses each point of objection and rejection raised by the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejected claims 33-35 are cancelled.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 5-10, 18-21, 23-32, and 36-39 were in condition for allowance, but have taken the opportunity to amend several of the claims:

- Claim 18 is amended to replace “a predetermined threshold” with “a threshold value.” Applicants submit that this amendment is editorial in nature and is not narrowing.
- Independent claim 24 is amended to broaden the description of the first data request by deleting the recitation that it is “from an external bus transaction.” This change is fully supported by the disclosure: for example, support may be found in paragraph [40]. Dependent claim 26 is likewise amended in view of the change to independent claim 24.
- A recitation of “from the external bus transaction” is also deleted from dependent claim 39, which depends from independent claim 27.
- Various editorial amendments are made to claims 5, 6, 7, 10, 20, 24, 26, 27, and 37. These editorial amendments are not intended to alter claim scope.

Applicants believe that the claims remain in condition for allowance, but request reconsideration for broadened independent claim 24.

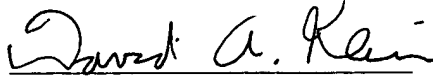
Further, applicants add claims 40-42, which recite an embodiment of the invention expressed in means-plus-function language. Consideration on the merits is requested.

Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees determined to be due with the exception of the issue fee and to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4209 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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